CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A mobile phone set comprising:

mobile-phone-service receiver/transmitter circuitry;

a global positioning system receiver circuit for obtaining coordinates that identify location of the mobile phone;

a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit which transmits a beacon at a frequency of approximately 406 MHz that includes the location coordinates from the global positioning system receiver circuit and an identification code selected from a serial number and a phone number of the mobile phone set;

a microprocessor coupled to the mobile-phone-service receiver/transmitter circuitry, the global positioning system receiver circuit, and the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit and configured to activate the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit only when there is no mobile phone service available and a user of the mobile phone set requests emergency service; and

a short range transceiver coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit and the microprocessor such that the beacon includes emergency information received through the short range transceiver from a device external to the mobile phone set.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A phone set according to claim 1 [[3]] wherein the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit also transmits a homing signal at a frequency selected from approximately 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.

5. (Original) A phone set according to claim 4 further comprising a microphone coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit such that the homing signal includes voice transmission.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of requesting emergency service on a mobile phone handset comprising the steps of:

determining whether mobile phone service is available using mobile-phone-service receiver/transmitter circuitry;

obtaining coordinates that identify location of the mobile phone handset using a global positioning system receiver circuit of the mobile phone handset;

when mobile phone service is unavailable and a user of the mobile phone handset requests emergency service, transmitting, using a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit of the mobile phone handset, a beacon at a frequency of approximately 406 MHz that includes the location coordinates from the global positioning system receiver circuit and an identification code selected from a serial number and a phone number of the mobile phone handset; and

receiving emergency information from a device external to the mobile phone handset through a short range transceiver located in the mobile phone handset, wherein the beacon includes the received emergency information.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9 wherein the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit transmits a homing signal at a frequency selected from approximately 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein voice transmission is included with the homing signal.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein:

the short range transceiver communicates with a black box recorder of a vehicle; and

the beacon includes emergency information received from said black box.

18. (Previously presented) A phone set according to claim 1, wherein:

the short range transceiver communicates with a black box recorder of a vehicle; and the beacon includes emergency information received from said black box.